

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of marketing products and services through
an independent dealer, comprising:
 providing information on a central database related
to an inventory of products and services available
through a moving and storage company;
10 providing access through a website for an
independent dealer to review the information related to
the inventory of products and services;
 selecting a storage unit from the inventory of
products and services according to customer selection
15 criteria; and
 completing a transaction for leasing the storage
unit through the independent dealer interacting with the
central database via the website.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the dealer accesses
the information related to the inventory of products and
services through a first computer system.
- 25 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the website resides
on a second computer system in communication with the
first computer system through a communication network.
- 30 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the inventory of
products and services includes rental equipment and
storage units.
5. The method of claim 4 further including the step of
reserving rental equipment for the customer through the
independent dealer interacting with the central database

via the website.

6. The method of claim 5 further including the step of pre-populating the website during the transaction for
5 leasing the storage unit with customer information compiled in the step of reserving rental equipment.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing access through a website for an independent dealer
10 includes the step of searching the central database for the storage unit which matches criteria given by the customer.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
15 completing a transaction for leasing the storage unit through the independent dealer includes the step of leasing the storage unit to give the customer occupancy rights as of the date of the transaction.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the inventory of
20 products and services includes products and services from related companies.

10. A method of leasing products and services,
25 comprising:

providing information on a central database related to an inventory of products and services;

providing access through a website for an independent dealer to review the information related to
30 the inventory of products and services;

selecting from the inventory of products and services according to customer selection criteria; and

completing a transaction for leasing selected inventory through the independent dealer interacting with

the central database via the website.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected inventory includes a storage unit.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected inventory includes a residential unit.

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13. The method of claim 10, wherein the inventory of products and services includes rental equipment and storage units.

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14. The method of claim 13 further including the step of reserving rental equipment for the customer through the independent dealer interacting with the central database via the website.

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15. The method of claim 10 further including the step of pre-populating the website during the transaction for leasing selected inventory with customer information compiled in a previous transaction.

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16. The method of claim 10, wherein the dealer accesses the information related to the inventory of products and services through a first computer system.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the website resides on a second computer system in communication with the first computer system through a communication network.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing access through a website for an independent dealer includes the step of searching the central database for the selected inventory which matches

criteria given by the customer.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of
completing a transaction includes the step of leasing the
5 selected inventory to give the customer use rights as of
the date of the transaction.

20. A method of marketing products and services through
a third party agent, comprising:

10 providing information on a central database related
to an inventory of products and services;

providing access through a website for a third party
agent to review the information related to the inventory
of products and services;

15 making a selection from the inventory of products
and services; and

recording a transaction for the selected inventory
through the third party agent interacting with the
central database via the website.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of
recording the transaction includes leasing a storage
unit.

25 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of
recording the transaction includes leasing a residential
unit.

30 23. The method of claim 20, wherein the dealer accesses
the information related to the inventory of products and
services through a first computer system.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the website resides
on a second computer system in communication with the

first computer system through a communication network.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of
providing access through a website for an independent
5 dealer includes the step of searching the central
database for the selected inventory which matches
criteria given by the customer.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of
10 recording a transaction includes the step of leasing the
selected inventory to give the customer use rights as of
the date of the transaction.

27. A system of leasing products and services,
15 comprising:

means for providing information on a central
database related to an inventory of products and
services;

20 means for providing access through a website for an
independent dealer to review the information related to
the inventory of products and services;

means for selecting from the inventory of products
and services according to customer selection criteria;
and

25 means for completing a transaction for leasing
selected inventory through the independent dealer
interacting with the central database via the website.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the selected
30 inventory includes a storage unit.

29. The system of claim 27 further including a first
computer system for the independent dealer to access the
information related to the inventory of products and

services.

30. The system of claim 27 further including a second
computer system for the website, where in the second
5 computer system communicates with the first computer
system through a communication network.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein leasing the selected
inventory gives the customer use rights as of the date of
10 the transaction.